

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 11/4/09, 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Officer Corey Rateau, Mike Rademacher, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener

Visitors Present: none

1. Public Comments: none.
2. Administration.
Minutes of 10/14/09 were approved unanimously.
Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
3. Recommendations, Broadway Crosswalk (near Lahey Clinic). Scott observed that the light at Route 16 creates substantial gaps in westbound traffic. A federal report suggests only giving priority to marked crosswalks where peak hour volumes are in excess of 15 to 20 pedestrians. This location appears to be well below that criterion. He recommended no crosswalk, as there was insufficient pedestrian volume to justify one, and adequate sightlines. Motion to approve Scott's recommendation, approved unanimously.
4. Recommendations, Chestnut Crosswalk. Scott reported his observations, including a spotlight at St. Agnes church that may create glare for eastbound drivers on Chestnut Street. . Scott recommends restoring both crosswalks (Chestnut at Medford Street and Chestnut Street and Terrace) with thermoplastic and in-street pedestrian crosswalk signs (bollards). He asked that other committee members check on the glare issue. Follow-up items include dealing with this light and installing a sign and bollard at the crosswalk at Chestnut Street and Terrace. Voted unanimously.
5. Winslow Towers. Jean reported her recommendations, including a count down pedestrian signal at Mass. Ave./Mystic/Pleasant St., and repairing town sidewalks. Voted unanimously. Mike will check with Republic on cost estimates for changing pedestrian signal. Bus shelters were also discussed. Laura reported that the MBTA has a program that provides free bus shelters funded by advertisements, but a zoning change is needed to allow freestanding signs. Laura will check on status of program. Jean will check on appropriate locations.
6. ABAC report. Scott reported that the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee sent a memo about formalizing a proposed lane sharing network (bike and car) for Arlington. He reported that ABAC would like to work with the Town to reduce bike riding on business district sidewalks, and that Phase 2 of the Mass Ave project will address the crossing of the Minuteman Bikeway at Mass. Ave..
7. Schools.
 - a. Stratton. School requested another Traffic Supervisor. School Comm. has authority, but School Dept. appears to have put one there. Corey is looking for SRTS maps to distribute to parents.
 - b. Peirce. Elisabeth reported a concern about the availability of drop off parking. Possible lead for drop off supervisor program.
 - c. Bishop. Mike and Dan Warren looking into moving obstructed signs.
 - d. Dallin. Still need placard reading "When School in Session" on George and Renfrew Streets.
8. Intersection Study. Laura reported that the State is making some funding available for study of regionally important intersections. Following a discussion, it was decided that Mass Ave. and Route 60, with the crossing of the Minuteman Bikeway would be a good candidate. Laura will follow up.

9. Alewife Report. Scott reported that 4 TAC members attended a state sponsored site visit of the Alewife area to hear about proposed changes in the works. Changes include widening of the sidewalk and bike lane between the station and Alewife Brook, and the addition of a travel lane from Route 16 eastbound to Route 2 westbound that will bypass the traffic signal.
10. Vision 2020 Survey. Vision 2020 would like to include some questions about traffic or parking on their annual survey. Laura will take the lead, Ed, and Howard will assist.
11. Westminster Traffic Calming. Elisabeth resubmitted plans of proposed traffic calming measures on Westminster Ave and Lowell Street for review. Elisabeth, Jeff and Mike will move forward on resolving remaining neighborhood issues. Scott suggested a change to the No Parking signs on the Lowell Street plan.
12. Green Line Update. Public hearing scheduled for Nov. 18. Environmental Impact Report proposes a 2 phase project. First phase goes to College Ave, funding mostly by federal government, built by 2014, with a 2nd phase to Route 16, funded by state and federal, built between 2016 and 2020. Town will submit a comment letter urging State to build both phases at once.
13. Mass. Corridor. Laura reported that project is still being reviewed by Mass. Highway. We don't know yet when the public hearing will be.
14. TIP changes. MPO will be voting on projects funded with federal stimulus money. Town requested Forest Street be put on that list. So far it was not put on the list.
15. Ottoson Middle School. Jeff and Ed will co-lead, Elisabeth will help with neighborhood issues.
16. Town Reports. Mike reported that 2 culverts are being repaired, with help of MWRA, starting in December. This will involve road closings for 3 months. DPW is doing sewer work on Turkey Hill.
17. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package: 1) Agenda 11/4/09; 2) Memo from Marie Krepelka to Brian Sullivan Re: TAC Recommendations, Downing Square, dated October 20, 2009; 3) Memo from Marie Krepelka to Ed Starr Re: Recommendations for Appleton Place, dated October 20, 2009; 4) Email from Cindy Starks to Molly Tibbetts Re: Acton Street Drop Off Traffic, Dated October 14, 2009; 5) Email from Summer Street Neighborhood Association to Selectmen Re: Speeding problems on Summer Street and rink overflow parking issues, dated October 21, 2009; 6) Email from David Berry to Commercial Development Committee Re: Presentation by Larry Koff in E. Arlington and Arlington Heights, dated October 21, 2009; 7) Email from Erik Moore to Ed Starr Re: Street signs in Arlington, dated October 24, 2009; 8) Email from Arlington list Re: Park Street Left Turn, dated 10/29/09; 9) Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, dated 10/14/09; 8) Project Status, dated 11/4/09; 10) Completed TAC Projects; 11) Status of Outstanding Actions, dated 11/4/09; 12) Project Status, dated 11/4/09; 13) TAC Report—Status of Winter Street and Oxford Street Approved Improvements, Updated September 28, 2009; 14) Scheduling TAC Stuff for BoS (Tentative), 11/1/09; 15) 2010 Meeting Dates for Transportation Advisory Committee; 16) Memo to Board of Selectmen from TAC Re: Winslow Tower Transportation Concerns, dated Nov. 16, 2009; 17) Draft Report, Winslow Tower Resident's Transportation Concerns, November 2009; 18) Thoughts About How to Approach the Ottoson Study; 11/2/09.

Minutes of 10/14/09

Overview of Mt. Gilboa Project and Phases

Memo from Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee to Board of Selectmen, Town Engineer, Town Manager, Planning and Community Development and Department of Public Works, Re: Proposal for Planned Lane Sharing Network on Arlington Roadways, dated October 2, 2009

Memo to Selectmen from TAC Re: Recommendations re. Crosswalk on Broadway near Silk Street (Lahey Clinic), dated November 4, 2009

APD Traffic Unit Speed Assessments, 2002-2009

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Federal Fiscal year 2010 Recommended Projects